

Chapter 15: Part Two - Fifteen:

Enactors of Desecration

The chapter opens with Sunder and Hollian bidding farewell to Covenant and Linden in the Hills of Andelain. Linden feels an unexpected sense of joy despite the recent loss of Caer-Caverall, the Forestal, as his sacrifice seems to promise hope. Covenant, however, is conflicted, grieving the cost of his friends' healing and his inability to fully perceive the impact of the Forestal's absence. Sunder and Hollian appear transformed, glowing with a mystical energy, and announce their decision to stay in Andelain to nurture the Land's future and raise their unborn child.

Sunder's cryptic words prompt Linden to question Caer-Caverall's motives in withholding the location of the One Tree from Covenant. This leads to a revelation: Sunder and Hollian have been altered by Earthpower, though they are not the new Forestal. Hollian explains that their existence is now tied to Andelain's magic, and leaving would mean their demise. Covenant initially hopes their transformation might offer a solution to his impending death, but this hope fades as he realizes their power is bound to the Hills.

The farewell between the companions is wordless, marked by deep understanding and unspoken emotions. As Sunder and Hollian depart, Linden comforts Covenant, who grapples with his mortality and the weight of his mission. Despite the loss of the Forestal, Andelain remains vibrant, its Earthpower undiminished. Covenant finds solace in this, though his mood shifts again as he confronts the bleak reality of his journey.

The chapter closes with Covenant and Linden reflecting on the enduring beauty of Andelain, even as they brace for the challenges ahead. Covenant's grim determination resurfaces, but his underlying despair lingers. The chapter underscores themes of sacrifice, transformation, and the fragile balance between hope and inevitability,

setting the stage for the next phase of their journey.

